

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers warns mariners of 'close quarters' as channel narrowed
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Carpenter (206) 789-2622, ext. 201, or
Dick Devlin, (206) 766-6447

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SEATTLE -- The large lock channel on the west end of the Chittenden Locks, between the railroad bridge and the entrance to the large lock, will be restricted in width starting at 7 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 as Manson Construction's crane barge Scandia begins doing work for the City of Seattle and Washington Department of Natural Resources in the area.

The restrictions are scheduled to be in place until 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12 though four days is a worst case scenario, as the city and WDNR are trying to get their work done in three. The barge is 220 feet by 75 feet in the beam and will be tied up to the north wing wall of the locks. During the time frame, it will be moved 150 feet from the railroad bridge east towards the large lock entrance.

This is not a Corps of Engineers project, though the Corps will do everything possible to assist and to promote safety.

According to locks' operations manager, Dave Carpenter, there will be room for vessels to get by, but passing barges might have to assist tugs help them get by the Scandia. Manson is planning on leaving the barge in place, without a tug, during the evening hours. If you feel that you will have problems with navigating this restricted channel, please call Dave at 206-789-2622 ext.202 or his cell phone 206-399-0159.

VESSELS and BOATERS who normally make use of the large lock to transit in either direction should ensure they have any additional handling equipment and crew required on board before entering the lock chamber. Questions on lock operations may be called in to Dave at 206-789-2622 ext. 202, or after hours and on weekends, contact the Lockmaster at 783-7000.

For current information about activities at the Locks, check the Corps of Engineers website at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> and select "Dams and Locks" then "Lake Washington Ship Canal" from the left column. The Chittenden Locks, often referred to as the Ballard or Government Locks, safely transit about 60,000 vessels each year.